

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting held at St. Joseph Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
William Rush, MD	HDN Medical Society
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
Angel LaRue, RN	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Patsy Barker, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Ken Stiver, MD	North Coast EMS
Tina Wood, RN	North Coast EMS/CAL-ORE Life flight
Laurie Garrison, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Aaron Blue, MD	St. Joseph Hospital/Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Traci Siler, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
David Southerland	St. Joseph Hospital
Martha Bialik, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 04/08/15 meeting minutes were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

North Coast Paramedic Program

Per Doug: The program begins again in August. Three more students completed the current program since last month. Dr. Michaels, Cardiologist at St. Joseph Hospital, gave an excellent presentation on 12-lead and STEMI designation. He expressed interest in students accompanying him to the CATH Lab. There is a meeting tomorrow with college faculty and hospital staff to address student overlap during clinical rotations. Another concern is students not having enough obstetric experience during hospital rotation time, because there are not enough births in the region. The program has a site visit next year for accreditation; Doug will begin the self-study for the visit shortly. The upcoming program has sixteen applicants so far, and Doug believes the class will be full. The final exam for the current class is this Friday. Students who pass the class will then begin field internships. Nine of the fourteen students want to intern at Arcata Mad River Ambulance. Others will go to City Ambulance and Del Norte Ambulance, and CAL-ORE.

Med Net System & MCI Channel Updates

Per Ron: The Camp 6 repeater was down. Del Norte Ambulance contacted the County Sheriff's Office, who fixed the repeater. Per Doug: No hospital responded to yesterday's MCI test. Arcata Mad River Ambulance's first and second units were both out so they did not respond either. Per Dr. Rush: What is the frequency for the MCI tests? Per Larry: There are several frequencies. Patsy has a list of the frequencies for each repeater. Both Dr. Rush and Larry asked for the document.

Image Trend and HIE Program Update

Per Larry: The HIE project is moving forward. NCEMS contracted with Melissa Glass to help out with the project. Louis Bruhnke sent out a notice to ALS providers stating NCEMS has funds to help

purchase mobile units to use Image Trend. This will be contingent on providers being current on QIP reports. Providers may receive bills—Tier 1 related costs will be reimbursed by NCEMS and Tier 2 costs must be paid by the provider.

Infectious Disease Update

Per Dr. Baird: Influenza A cases have dissipated. Influenza B cases are still common; it is unusual to see so many this late in the season. Public Health will still push for vaccinations through this month. There are currently no measles cases in northern California. All front-line emergency medical staff should be both immunized and get a qualitative titer. The county is seeing a lot of children with adenovirus rashes, which most doctors are not as familiar with.

STEMI Program Update

Per Larry: NCEMS will have a STEMI designation meeting with St. Joseph next Tuesday night. Selinda Shontz will attend.

Exclusive Operating Area/Transportation Plan – Humboldt County

Per Larry: The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution directing NCEMS to pursue establishing one or more EOAs in Humboldt County. Larry distributed copies of the resolution. The EOA will become part of the Humboldt County's transportation plan. He sent the draft of the transportation plan to City Ambulance, Arcata Mad River Ambulance, St. Joseph and Mad River Hospitals and has received feedback. After the comments are addressed, a revision of the draft will be sent out again for review. Once it is complete, the draft will go out for review by the entire EMS community. When all revisions are complete, NCEMS will send the draft to the governing board for final approval, and then to the State EMSA.

City Ambulance and St. Joseph Hospital are working on an inter-facility transfer contract. Per Jaison: St. Joseph's legal department has the contract for review. He sent an email to St. Joseph's attorney asking for a status update. He had a productive meeting with Bill LaFranchi of the Regional Referral Program and Dr. Beirbaum of the transfer center on 05/11/15. Their main discussion was on transfers out of Jerold Phelps.

QIP Plan Revisions

Per Larry: Louis submitted the plan to the community for review. Once all comments are addressed, the plan will be sent to the EMSA. Next year, NCEMS plans to have more CEU sessions, which may include QI presentations. They are considering on-line certifications and accreditations.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Field Care Audit Policy Review

Per Tim C: Paramedics are required to have six hours of field care audit every two years. Jaison was told by Wendy Chapman that now NCEMS is counting two hours of credit even if there was a topic and two hours of actual field care audit. Per Jaison: There have been a lot of canceled field care audits last year. Hospital representatives disputed the assertion that field care audits were being canceled at their facilities. Per Tracie: Every other field care audit conducted at St. Joseph includes review charts. Per Dr. Blue: If anyone is unable to attend field care audits at other hospitals, they are welcome to come to a St. Joseph Hospital field care audit. Per Ron: Trying to get all their paramedics enough credits through field care audits is inconvenient, especially considering this is not a state mandate. Larry believes NCEMS policy on field care audit accreditation should stay the same for now, but he is willing to revisit it in the future if the requirement becomes too burdensome.

Ortho Call Schedule

Distributing the orthopedic call schedule is working. Per Patsy: Mad River Hospital has fourteen days of orthopedic coverage per month.

4. NCEMS Report

Per Larry: Regarding inter-facility transfer, NCEMS has revised the policy. He distributed the draft revision. Larry discussed section D.1.d. 1)-6). The revision will go out for review. Per Tracie: Under 1), St. Joseph will not call the ambulance service directly; they will call the transfer center. Larry will add references to transfer centers. Per Doug: Remove references to EMT-II in the procedures. Ron is concerned about setting up a ground transfer when an ambulance service is unable to do the transfer. He wants Del Norte Ambulance to be involved in facilitating transfers to/from Del Norte from the beginning. Per Patsy: Sometimes they need to contact several hospitals before they can find one to accept a patient, thus they cannot contact a particular ambulance service initially. Both Ron and Jaison would like to know if there is a potential patient transfer, even if it is several hours until the transfer is confirmed. Per Traci: The transfer center can notify the ambulance companies that a transfer may need to be arranged. Per Ron: In the event of an MCI, they may not be able to do secondary transfers. Per Martha: Most patients with acute illness are eventually transferred by air. Ron and Charles both would like to know about these patients as well, even if they will probably not transfer them to the airport. Per Angel: With out of county transfers, does City Ambulance request certain forms or physician logs (she was unsure which documents; she heard this second-hand). Per Jaison: No. Transferring to an out of county hospital requires the same paperwork as a local hospital. Per Larry: Do hospitals still have valid transfer agreements with each other and with ambulance companies? Per Traci: Connie Commander, St. Joseph's Discharge Planner, is updating those agreements. She will bring a status report on those agreements to the next meeting.

Larry distributed an email on a lecture sponsored by Shasta Regional Medical Center on 05/28/15. Dr. Zellar, chief of psychiatric emergency services for the Alameda Health System, will speak on Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES). Larry distributed copies of AB1257. Per Ron: The bill attempts to address Medi-Cal ambulance payment rates. Ron supports the legislation. Larry distributed information about a webinar entitled "EMS Compass". The webinar will talk about the federal government's future measures for dealing with EMS ambulance services issues. He hopes Louis can attend and give a report at the next meeting. He recommended other members attend as well.

Larry and Dr. Stiver participated in the EMS for Children federal site visit. Larry believes it went well. They received a tour of the new UC Davis teaching hospital. Highlights include their tele-medicine center, and the entire floor of mannequins and other teaching aids. Larry suggested the North Coast Paramedic Program connect to the telemedicine center and perhaps do a mock code.

Per Larry: He, Jaison, CAL-Fire representatives, Michelle Reyna-Sanchez from Central Dispatch at the Eureka Police Department met to review code levels for first response scenarios. Now in the event of an unknown injury traffic transportation incident, fire departments will go code 2. Police will go code 1, instead of code 3 as is now the case. Per Doug: Most "unknown injury" incidents Arcata Mad River Ambulance responds to do are non-injuries, and do not require an ambulance. Per Jaison: For convulsion/seizure incidents, Kayce Hurd believes all seizure calls should be code 3 (currently not all are). Per Doug: Often Arcata Mad River Ambulance responds to homeless individuals who claim they are going to have a seizure and those calls go code 2 because often they are not actually having a seizure. Per Jaison: It was determined to be too difficult to differentiate among different types of seizures, or a seizure vs an aura of a seizure.

Per Charles: Is NCEMS aware of any funding source for emergency medical dispatch (EMD)? Del Norte County has not had EMD in a long time, and he would like funding to bring it back. Larry is unaware of a funding source. NCEMS does not have funds for EMD.

5. EMS Commission Report

Per Jaison: The next meeting is in June in Sacramento. A bill originally designed to allow EMTs and Paramedics to detain 5150 patients has been changed to state only if they “work for a hospital”. Jaison opposes this change and contacted the bill’s author to express his opinion. Per Tracie: Would this bill as now worded affect transfers from hospital ERs to Sempervirens? Per Jaison: Yes.

6. Facility Reports

Doug asked members to review the representatives for their facilities listed on the email distribution list and submit changes to NCEMS. Members indicated there are several changes needed.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: Nothing to report.

Humboldt/Del Norte Medical Society—Per Dr. Rush: Are surgeons opting out of treating some patients, which is leading to many of the orthopedic patient transfers or are the transfers genuinely necessary? Per Laurie: Most of the local orthopedic surgeons are not on call constantly for the hospitals; they are only on call seven days per month.

Del Norte Ambulance—The Del Norte Board of Supervisors issued a resolution yesterday supporting EMS Week and also recognized Ron for his years of service with Del Norte Ambulance. Del Norte Ambulance will hold an event on 05/20/15 to commemorate EMS Week. Tom Phillips, a paramedic with DN Ambulance, was honored with a Star of Life award in Washington, D.C. DN Ambulance is updating their mutual aid agreements with their medical providers. Per Charles: On 06/08/15 Del Norte County will hold a countywide disaster drill. Members from both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties are invited to attend.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Tracie: They are getting a designated smart phone for their ER. They will start distributing copies of their STEMI patient feedback sheets to NCEMS. They also will try to include them in their monthly field care audits. Per David: They are still working with City Ambulance on a draft of inter-facility transfer agreement. They have been approached by two commercial helicopter services to provide helicopter coverage, either stationed at their hospital or at the airport. They have not made a decision on whether or not to contract with a helicopter service, but will continue to consider the possibility, especially after their trauma center is designated.

Per Jaison: Is St. Joseph’s goal to bring southern Humboldt patients to their hospital that are currently being taken south of Humboldt? Tracie could not answer this question. Per Jaison: City Ambulance has a good relationship with Cal Star, who transports those patients, and he can ask them to not fly those patients out of the area. Per Larry: NCEMS is conservative on using helicopter services due to safety concerns, and they do not allow auto-launch of helicopters in this region. Usually, there is time to use a ground ambulance. Per Jaison: Northern Mendocino uses auto-launch. He believes it is often unnecessary and is causing transport problems.

Per David: They have been meeting with members of the county, including DHHS Director Phil Crandall, on 5150 issues. They have asked the county for more support on psychiatric evaluations. In response, DHHS has created a team who will send members to St. Joseph to evaluate patients (called a MIST Team). St. Joseph is also developing a contractual relationship with American Psychiatric Services, a tele-medicine company, which the county is currently contracted with. St. Joseph’s goal is to have more 5150 patients released from the hospital ER.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim C: Nothing to report.

Sutter Coast Hospital—Per Martha: They are preparing for the “Every Fifteen Minutes” event at Del Norte High School, and the 06/08/15 Del Norte County disaster drill. For the next MAC meeting at

Sutter Coast, members agreed to meet at 10:00am-12:00. Larry will invite members from the MAC North committee.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Dr. Baird: Air Methods, a large air ambulance company, is going to officially request a permit to operate in Humboldt County. Dr. Baird believes that fixed wing air ambulance service is faster than helicopter, and sometimes ground ambulance is faster than air service. He again requested NCEMS take over licensing ambulance services in the county, instead of it being done by Public Health. Per Larry: NCEMS will consider the request in the future once the Exclusive Operating Area issues are resolved. This process may take at least another year.

Jerold Phelps Hospital—Per Angel: They will hold a field care audit on 05/21/15. Their new Electronic Health Records system goes live on 05/31/15.

Mad River Community Hospital—Per Wendy: They are celebrating National Hospital Week with an employee recognition dinner tonight at Blue Lake Casino.

CAL-ORE/NCEMS—Per Tina: Nothing to report for CAL-ORE. For NCEMS, she is pleased that field care audits are going on as scheduled in Hoopa with good attendance.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Laurie: Traci Siler has accepted a position as Area Director Emergency Services for Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: Last month they participated in an “Every Fifteen Minutes” event at McKinleyville High, which went well. On 05/22/15, they will hold their annual appreciation dinner. They will award the EMT of the year and nurse of the year.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday 6/10/15 at Sutter Coast Hospital, large conference room, 10:00 a.m.